



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

No. 139

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, You promised that those who passionately seek You will find You. So we fervently ask for Your presence. Deliver us from worries and distractions that hinder our pursuit of You, and guard our hearts and minds with Your peace.

As frail children of time and fate, we are lost without the wisdom of Your providence. Speak to our leaders and draw them into intimacy with You. Remind them that neither death nor life, angels or principalities, powers or things present or things to come, heights or depths, can separate them from Your love. Rescue them from misplaced priorities that major in minors and minor in majors. Keep their minds alert and their hearts at full attention as they wait for the unfolding of Your will.

We pray in Your hallowed Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate.

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any time used by me or Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will resume debate on the Department of Defense authorization measure and then have a period of 1 hour to discuss the Specter-Leahy habeas corpus amendment prior to a vote to invoke cloture on that amendment. Members have until 10 o'clock this morning to file any germane second-degree amendments to this pending amendment.

Yesterday, there were discussions with respect to restructuring—I should not say restructuring, structuring the debate format for these Iraq amendments and the Defense authorization bill. Our staffs have been working. We hope something can be worked out.

Additionally, other Members have amendments on various topics dealing with the Defense authorization bill. We hope we can get a process going where we can move through these as rapidly as possible. I announced yesterday we would vote no later than 10:30 a.m. this Friday because of the Jewish holiday which begins at sundown, and some

Members need that time to fly to their homes to be ready for Yom Kippur, which starts, as I indicated, at sundown. We also are going to have a vote at noon on Monday. Everyone should be aware of that. It is not going to be a judge's vote, it is going to be an important vote. I am well aware of the many scheduling issues facing Senators, but we have much work to do prior to the scheduled Columbus Day recess. We have to extend a number of bills because of the fiscal year ending, so I encourage Members to be mindful of the schedule and need for flexibility.

I ask unanimous consent the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma be allowed to speak for up to 7 minutes on an issue dealing with the war in Iraq, a fallen soldier, and that time not be taken away from the debate on the habeas corpus amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE FALLEN

Mr. REID. These remarks are so important. I have had the duty—I feel it is my duty—to call home and speak to 55 mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and children of Nevadans who have died in the war. It is a difficult situation. I last week talked to a grandmother whose 19-year-old grandson committed suicide a week after he went back for his second tour of duty. He killed himself in Iraq. These are real difficult situations. I know how strongly Members feel. So I certainly appreciate the feeling of the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, I thank the majority leader for his comments. It will be my intention, after I conclude my remarks concerning a fallen marine, that the floor be given to the Senator from South Carolina, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, for a period of approximately 15 minutes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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